

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
INSPECTOR OF PRISONS AND PUBLIC CHARITIES  
UPON THE  
ONTARIO INSTITUTION  
FOR THE  
*Education and Instruction of the Blind,*  
BRANTFORD,

BEING FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 1884.

Printed by Order of the Legislative Assembly.



Toronto:

PRINTED BY "GRIP" PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO., 26 & 28 FRONT ST.

1885.



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OFFICE OF THE  
INSPECTOR OF PRISONS AND PUBLIC CHARITIES, ONTARIO,  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1884.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith, to be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the Thirteenth Annual Report upon the Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Blind, Brantford, being for the official year ending 30th September, 1884.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

R. CHRISTIE,

*Inspector.*

The Honourable

ARTHUR STURGIS HARDY, Q.C., M.P.P.,

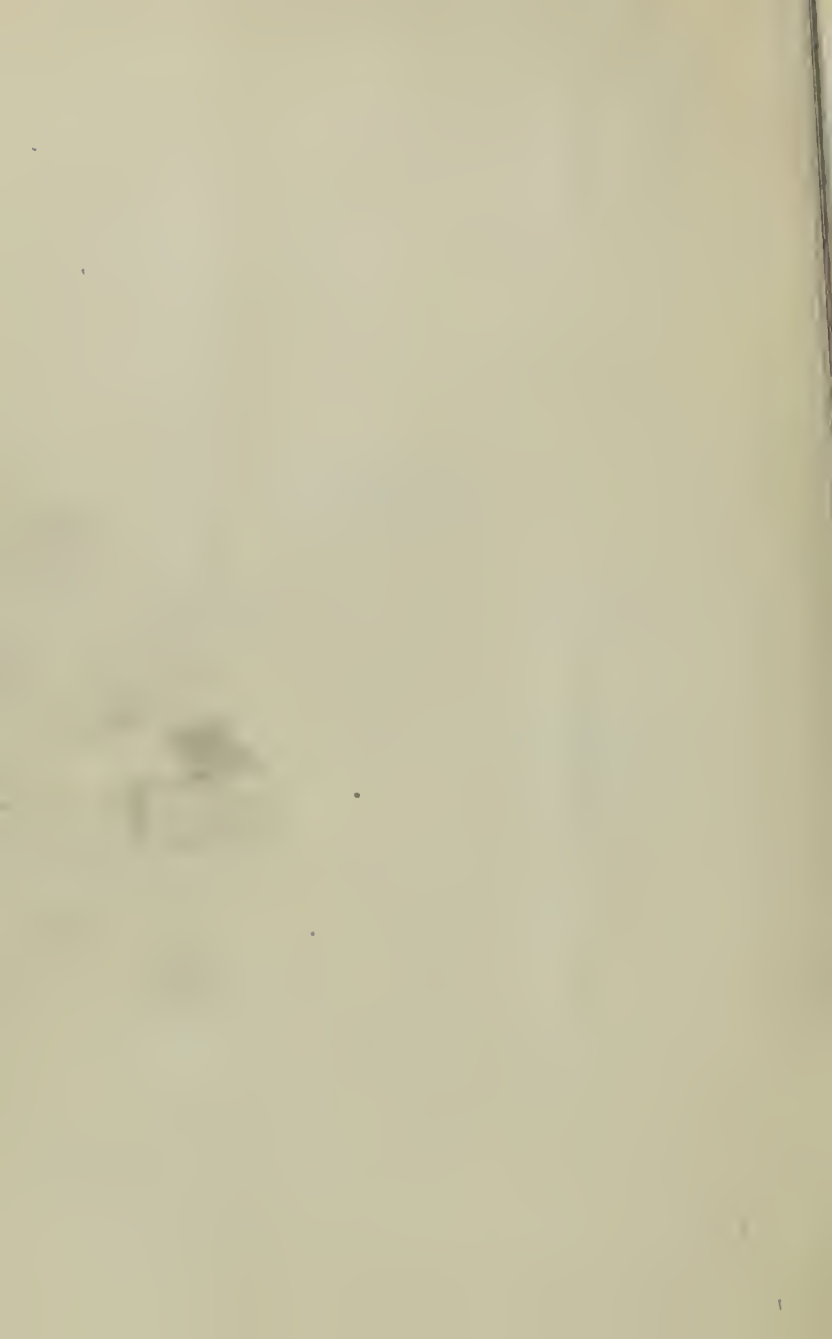
Secretary for the Province of Ontario,

Toronto.

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INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

THIRTEENTH  
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Inspector of Prisons & Public Charities

FOR THE

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,

*Toronto, December, 1884.*

*To the Honourable JOHN BEVERLEY ROBINSON, Lieutenant-Governor of the  
Province of Ontario.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:—

I beg to submit herewith the Thirteenth Annual Report upon the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Blind, Brantford, being for the official year ending 30th September, 1884.

I have the honour to be,

Your Honour's most obedient servant,

R. CHRISTIE,

INSPECTOR.

## INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

The average number of pupils in attendance at the Institution during the session 1883-84 was, as was anticipated, 120. The Principal expects that in the current session the average attendance will reach 130. He is of opinion that the reduction in numbers which was noticeable for several sessions, has now ceased, and that for the next few sessions, the pupils will increase in number.

The institution has continued to successfully fulfil its object of imparting instruction to the blind, and during the past year its usefulness has not been impeded by any unlooked for occurrences. Order and regularity have marked its course. Matters of detail are dealt with in my inspection minutes and in the report of the Principal and Surgeon.

### EXAMINATIONS.

The literary classes were examined as heretofore by Dr. Kelly, Public School Inspector, and Mr. Wilkinson, M.A., Principal of the Brantford Central School. Their report is subjoined:—

In obedience to your instructions we have examined the literary classes in the Institution for the Blind established at Brantford, and have the honour to report the results as in the tabulated form hereto annexed.

The examination was held on the 28th, 29th and 30th May, and was concluded on the 4th of June. As changes had been made in the *personnel* of the staff since our last examination, we thought it well to devote the afternoon of the first day to an observance of the methods of instruction and discipline pursued by the several teachers. The results of our observations were generally satisfactory. The new members of the literary staff are Miss Catharine Gillen and Miss Margaret E. Walshe. Miss Gillen is a teacher of experience and established reputation, having occupied a high position in the Brantford Public Schools and subsequently in the Port Hope High School, for several years. Miss Walshe is also a teacher of experience and ability. The classification of the pupils has been improved though there is room for further improvement; the order, too, is, if possible, better. A little more attention might be profitably devoted to reading, that is to good enunciation, emphasis and expression. Evident advancement has been made in writing, the specimens being, in our judgment, better than those of a year ago. As several of the more advanced pupils are now devoting themselves to music and the industries carried on in the workshops, the literary classes lose in proportion, but the gaps are being well filled in the ranks by younger recruits who promise to do remarkably well.

In the observations which follow on the several classes, it will be seen that some are favourite subjects, such as geography, history and English literature. Touching the last we would recommend the Shakesperian part of the work for next year be the "Midsummer Night's Dream," that Tennyson and Longfellow be studied further, that the great English writers of the first half of the nineteenth century (as many of them as possible) be touched upon, and that of Americans, Bryant, Lowell, and Poe might be added for the sake of variety and instruction. We were glad to notice several new books in the library, and that a healthy spirit of improvement pervades the Institution.

### MR. WICKENS' CLASSES.

1. *Arithmetic*—Class B. This class numbers 16. One was absent through illness and one incapable through deafness. The ground covered embraced the compound rules, measures and multiples, and simple fractions. The problems



were, for the most part, of a practical character, and the answers, generally, prompt and accurate. Two of the candidates obtained the maximum, four 75 per cent., and seven 50 per cent. The order and attention were satisfactory.

2. *Reading*—Class A. Eighteen pupils. Reading line type. Nine read fluently, with correct emphasis and good expression; seven fluently, but not well otherwise; two were inferior readers. The spelling was satisfactory, and the pupils had been taught to define and derive easy words.

3. *Geography*—The pupils possessed a good general knowledge of the relative positions of the several countries of Europe and America, and of the principal features of these continents, with the exception of two, who appeared unable to go on with the rest.

4. *Writing*—The pupils have learned to write letters very well, both in form and composition.

5. *English Grammar*—Pupils analyze and parse ordinary sentences well, have a correct notion of what constitutes good English, and correct readily common errors in syntax. They have also a knowledge of the rules of grammar most commonly violated and are able to apply them. There is much diversity in the attainments of the members of this class, chiefly due to the differences of mental ability, but as a whole they do well.

#### MISS WALSH'S CLASSES.

1. *Grammar*—Class A. This class consists of 10 pupils, one of whom was absent, ill. The limit embraced the whole subject, including prosody and the history of the language. The class contains the most advanced and cleverest pupils in the Institution. The examination was long and thorough, the answering, on the whole, admirable. Different passages from the poems of Pope and Scott were analyzed, and the words parsed with a readiness and a correctness rarely equalled by a fifth or sixth class in the best Public School. This is shown by the fact that out of ten candidates four obtained the maximum of marks, and two 90 per cent., the lowest gaining 60 per cent.

2. *Writing*—Class B. Thirteen pupils. Can write small and capital letters, and several can write very fair correspondence.

3. *Chemistry*.—The limit, included oxygen, etc., the non-metals, electricity, the thermometer, and barometer. Considering the great disadvantages under which the pupils labour, they did remarkably well; they evinced an accurate and satisfactory knowledge of the subject as far as examined, and showed that they had been intelligently and carefully instructed.

4. *Arithmetic*—Class did, as a whole, very well; hardly as strong as last year, several of the most advanced pupils having left the Institution; yet the average results were good. Comparatively difficult problems in percentage, interest and bills of parcels, and practical questions involving the principles of fractions, were given to them and were solved by the majority with accuracy. *Morale* of the class excellent, a healthy spirit of rivalry being manifested through the entire examination.

5. *Geography*—This class contains a number of very bright pupils, who manifest great intelligence and delight in this study. Many of them have learned all the general geography of the United States and have a good acquaintance with the position of places, manufactures, and public buildings of the principal cities

and towns of the Dominion. They also knew very well the different land and water routes and have acquired as much knowledge of the whole subject as seeing pupils. Whole examination exceedingly satisfactory.

6. *Writing*—Somewhat better than that of last year, being more legible and more like the writing of seeing persons. Some pupils have made very satisfactory progress in this branch, which is so useful to the blind. In many cases the writing was remarkably good, and as the specimens were written from dictation, they afforded a fair test of penmanship. We have made a distinction between the writing of those pupils who are totally blind, and that of those who are at all aided by sight, and can say with confidence that the teaching here is particularly good.

7. *Reading*—Class C. All read fairly; a few read well. Many of the pupils were in the lowest class last year. Some have been but a year in the Institution, and consequently their progress is particularly noticeable. The advance, we are happy to say, is, in some cases, quite remarkable, and with the exception of one or two, for whose deficiency there are good reasons, all have made substantial improvement. The spelling also is good, and the meaning of the words creditably understood.

8. *Object Lessons*—Class B. Pupils were able to determine the class to which a bird belongs by handling a specimen, and to give pretty full accounts of the habits and uses of the domestic animals. In this subject blind children take great delight, and it is pleasant to see and know that they have so good an idea of many of the objects whose names they meet in reading. This was not the case a few years ago. The number of objects has been considerably increased during the year, and with a few more additions will be all that is needful.

#### MISS MARGARET E. WALSHE'S CLASSES.

1. *Arithmetic*—Class C. This class numbered 21. Limit, multiplication table, weights and measures, reduction in part, and practical problems—a good class on the whole and likely to improve in this subject next year. The answering was generally very good, and the teacher had evidently taken much pains to improve her pupils.

2. *Geography*—Class B. Fourteen pupils, limits—America, particularly the Dominion of Canada, the United States, and the West India Islands. The work of the class was very satisfactory. In addition to an accurate knowledge of the several counties, provinces and states, with their capitals, principal mountain chains, rivers, capes, islands, etc., they had memorized the areas of countries, lakes, etc., could describe the climate, soil, productions, and the forms of government in each country.

3. *Object Lessons*—Class A. Fifteen pupils. This is an interesting class. They had received instruction as to 29 or 30 species of animals, besides the various cereals grown in Canada. Several of them with the object in hand, such as the tiger, rhinoceros, elephant, or ostrich, were able to describe the anatomical structure, the size, shape, habits, habitat of each. The cockatoo seemed to be the favourite object.

4. *Writing*—Pupils write with care and promise to do well.

5. *Reading*—Class B stood a tolerable examination. Several read well, and the teacher is evidently anxious for the success of her pupils, and labours with them in the most painstaking manner. Most were able to give the substance in their own words of what they read. The spelling was uniformly good.

*Grammar*—Class stood a fair examination on the general principles of grammar. Their attainments are pretty equal, and their teacher has tried to bring all into a satisfactory state of proficiency. They know very thoroughly all the work over which they are expected to go.

#### MISS GILLEN'S CLASSES.

1. *Writing*—Class D. Twenty pupils, three of whom can see a little and one is too young to write. The specimens examined were, as a rule, very fairly done and afforded evidences of improvement.

2. *English Literature*—A class of 14. Although some of the best students in this subject, examined last year, have left the Institution, the present class is, on the whole, superior to the old one. The examination occupied an extensive range, commencing with literature during the Roman occupation and tracing it down to the "Spacious Times of Great Elizabeth." The interval between Elizabeth and Victoria was skipped for want of time, and only two writers of the Victorian era, Tennyson and the American Longfellow, were at all exhaustively examined. The play of Julius Caesar had been carefully studied, and several had committed the choice portions, such as the quarrel scene, the speeches of Marcellus, Brutus, and Antony, etc., to memory. The plot and drift of the drama were thoroughly understood. Of the two poets, Tennyson and Longfellow, the latter seems to be the more general favourite with the class. Many of his best poems had been memorized by the pupils, and the manner of recitation showed their thorough appreciation of the subject. The stories in the "Princess," "Maud," "Enoch Arden," and the "Idyls" were intelligently outlined by several members of the class. Miss Gillen has succeeded in inspiring her pupils with an enthusiasm for English Literature.

3. *English History*—A class of 8; an excellent class. The examination was general, embracing, among other things, the growth of the constitution, the social condition of the people, etc. More intelligent answering, a better knowledge of the subject, it would be hard to find anywhere.

4. *Arithmetic*—The class consists of two divisions, one the lowest in this subject. The senior class was examined in problems involving multiplication and subtraction, chiefly practical business questions. The processes by which they arrived at their results were also inquired into and were found to be generally the best. The operations were performed with tolerable rapidity. In the lower division some are quite young, others of weak intellect. Some arrangement in the shape of a numeral frame for each child would be useful in affording them a means of aiding them in their calculations. This class affords a good test of the amount of knowledge imparted in a session. The results were very creditable.

5. *Canadian History*—Class studying this subject but for a part of the term. They were examined in their knowledge of the different periods of our history, the careers of several of the principal men, the chief events, then the dates, causes and results. For a class of comparatively young pupils, they did remarkably well. We anticipate good results from such a hopeful commencement and can not praise too highly the diligence manifested by both teacher and taught.

## MR. SHANNON'S CLASSES.

1. *Writing*—A class of seven, among them two or three culls. Four write with considerable facility.

2. *Calisthenics*—We witnessed the ealistic exercises on two occasions, Prof. Day playing the organ accompaniment. These included the various extension movements, marching and marking time.

3. *Physiology and Natural History*—This class was examined as to knowledge of the human body, digestion and circulation, and somewhat as to what they knew of natural history (zoology). While some have not as much improvement as is desirable, the majority show by their answering and their interest that they have been well taught. In conclusion we would again respectfully urge upon the authorities charged therewith, the necessity for the erection of a suitable gymnasium. Our thanks are due to Principal Dymond and his staff, for many acts of attention and kindness during the examination.

The musical department was examined by Mr. Aldous, of Brantford, who reported upon it as follows:—

"I have the honour to submit to you my report of the music pupils in the Ontario Institution for the Blind, at Brantford, which I examined on June 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

"I was much gratified to find the instruction given in all the classes to be remarkably thorough; every pupil being thoroughly well drilled in the first principles of musical knowledge, as well as in a correct technical method, without which no progress can be satisfactory. The advanced pupils, and several of the younger ones as well, evinced an intellectual grasp of the music they were rendering, which proved that their musical nature had been fostered by the use of compositions of the best quality, a benefit which none will appreciate sooner than the blind.

"The pupils of Mr. Day on the pipe-organ showed a considerable degree of proficiency, not only in pedal and manual work, but also in registration, a branch of organ-playing fraught with peculiar difficulties to blind students.

"Mr. Day's piano pupils showed the same thorough training, one especially being prepared to make a very creditable performance on the concert platform.

"Miss Callaghan's pupils on the piano showed the result of careful discrimination in the selection of technical exercises and pieces suited to their individual peculiarities and requirements.

"The pupils of Miss Moore and Miss McNish on the piano—some of them in the first stages of preparation to become advanced pianists, and some of them only learning a little for home amusement—all show a careful and kindly teaching which they all appreciate.

"Miss Moore's pupils on the reed organ, with the exception of one who is well advanced on the pedal reed organ, are mostly those who want to be able "to play a little at home;" and surely no pastime can be more pleasant or healthful for a blind person than to draw sweet tones from the ivory keys, sympathetic companions to those even who can only use them a little.

"Miss Moore's class in point printing showed considerable fluency in taking down from dictation, and their work proved on trial to be correct. Every music pupil should unquestionably learn this invaluable art.

"Mr. Baker's pupils on the violin showed a thorough grounding, and those who are advanced play with considerable artistic proficiency.

"I must give great praise to Mrs. Howson for the training of the vocal students. The first class are thoroughly drilled in single tones, scales, and arpeggios, each sung in various degrees of tone and with crescendo and diminuendo



They are also all trained in singing songs, simultaneously in unison, so that all the members of the class are prepared with solos, although only those with the best voices make their appearance as solo singers. The part singing of the class is remarkably good, both for the quality of the tone, the shading, and the general finish.

"The students of the second class are on the same plan as the first, and the results here obtained show a good preparation for an efficient maintenance of the first class as the older pupils leave.

"The tuning students, under the tuition of Mr. Raymond, are in various stages of advancement, but all seem to have the requisite fine ear, and to be receiving careful training.

"The pipe organ needs a careful revision both for tuning and regulating, and the pianos should be thoroughly regulated during the summer, as a year's constant use cannot but make the actions somewhat loose and noisy, otherwise the instruments are in fair condition. I should strongly recommend that the grand piano be not used for practice but reserved solely for rehearsals and concerts.

"In closing my report I wish to thank heartily the Principal and other members of the staff for their kindness and assistance during the short duration of my labours at the Institution."

It will be seen that both these reports state the Institution to be in a satisfactory condition, from an educational point of view, and as year by year the staff becomes more efficient, it is reasonable to expect that the result of its labours will be more satisfactory.

#### INSPECTIONS.

I made three visits of inspection to the Institution and made the following reports in regard to them:—

"I visited the Institution for the Blind, Brantford, on the 31st March.

"There were 63 male and 58 female pupils in attendance, all of whom were reported in good health and making satisfactory progress in the various branches of study. Two of the female pupils, during the early part of the session, had been seriously ill with colds contracted while absent from the Institution visiting their friends, but they are now so far convalescent as to return to their work in the class room.

"The senior master, Mr. Wickens, was absent on leave in consequence of his impaired condition of health, but he has reported himself much benefited by the rest and change, and hopes to be able to resume his position at an early day. In the meantime his duties are as far as practicable provided for by dividing them among the other teachers.

"An inspection of the buildings, including dormitories, class-rooms, store, kitchen, engine-rooms, workshop, and farm buildings was made with a view of ascertaining their condition and the necessity for any immediate repairs required.

"As the result of considerable repairs to the roof during past years and the prompt removal of snow during the winter, but little damage has been sustained from leakage of late. Strong winds, however, have removed slates from the roof of the Institution and the Principal's house, which require to be replaced immediately, and the Principal is authorized to have the necessary repairs made.

"The plaster ceilings which have to be replaced, will require, say, 2,500 feet of matched and bevelled select pine sheeting, 3 inches wide, and the Principal in conjunction with the Bursar will procure the lumber for the purpose of having the work put in hand at the earliest opportunity. It will be done by the Institution

carpenter, and the material charged to capital account, for which appropriation has been made.

"Repairs to the verandah of the lodge are also necessary, and the purchase of 750 feet of lumber is authorized for this purpose also, the work to be done by the carpenter and charged to maintenance account. An expenditure of, say, \$50 is also necessary for the purpose of relaying the floors, and making other necessary internal repairs to the horse stable, which the Principal will arrange for, and the account for material will be charged to farm exchange account.

"The new heating apparatus in the workshop is reported to be working very satisfactorily, and the danger resulting from heating with stoves is altogether avoided. The ventilation of the upper floor of the shop will admit of improvement, and the Principal will ascertain the cost of placing a couple of ventilators in the ceiling, with the view of remedying the defect.

"The difficulty of finding an outlet for machine-knitted goods manufactured by the female pupils, has seemingly impeded the progress of instruction in this work. But as it is most desirable that instruction should be continued in this branch of industry, sufficient material will be purchased to keep the machines in operation during the remainder of the session, and the goods produced sold when a market can be found for them. In this, as well as in the willow work department, the course has been followed by allowing the pupils a certain sum on the work done, as an incentive to their acquiring a knowledge of the trade. While this arrangement has some advantages, the Principal is of the opinion that, on the whole it is objectionable, and that the pupils should have in view the acquirement of a thorough knowledge of the industry without any immediate pecuniary advantage to be derived from it; and that the substitution of a prize, or possibly an outfit, for the present plan might be preferable. This matter is of importance, and must receive careful consideration before any change is made.

"Appropriation having been made on capital account, to cover an expenditure of \$150, for glass cases suitable to protect the stuffed birds, animals, etc., used in object-teaching, and also for the purchase of other objects required, the Principal is authorized to procure such as are desirable, but not to exceed the amount of the appropriation in making purchases on this account.

"The newly acquired land on the northern and western boundaries of the Institution property is in such condition as to require fallowing; and with the view of having it properly tilled early in the season, and prepared for seeding down next year, the Principal is authorized to engage a man to plough it in the first instance, and the work may subsequently be done by the farm hands as the season advances, as they happen to have time, without interfering with the regular work of the farm now under cultivation.

"Another inspection of the Institution was made on the 23rd July, for the purpose of noting the progress in effecting repairs and alterations, which had been authorized during the vacation.

"An improvement, which will materially benefit the pupils on the girls' side, is that of dividing the large dormitory into three separate apartments. This work, under the direction of the Principal is nearly completed, and has been done in a very satisfactory manner. It is executed in good taste, and will insure much more privacy than under the former arrangement.

"The plaster ceilings in the Principal's office and in the reception room have been removed, and the work of replacing them with matched sheeting will be commenced at once. The arrangement of two rooms, one on the first floor and the other on the second, is also in progress and will be completed in good time for the junior teachers, who are to occupy them, and as they are situate near the centre of the boys' dormitories will, in every way, be much more convenient, and

afford better opportunity for the necessary oversight and care required. The expenditure has been limited to the purchase of the material required.

"The Principal reports the heating appliances in the new annexe to be insufficient in cold weather, and also that throughout the east wing it is generally too cold for comfort. In the former case the want is no doubt largely due to the distance which the steam is conveyed from the boilers to the radiators in the apartments referred to, and to remedy this defect it will be necessary to take the steam direct from the boilers by a separate pipe connected with the radiators in the annexes. This will greatly shorten the distance, and admit of the steam being gauged to supply sufficient heat at the points indicated, without interfering with the supply of the east wing as at present.

"To secure the proper heating of the east wing a large branch pipe required, say 3 inches in diameter, from which a supply can be distributed through the wing.

"The cost of these alterations and additions are estimated as follows:—

8 radiators, say .....	\$200 00
Pipe for direct connection.....	165 00
110 feet of 3-inch pipe for east side .....	50 00
110 feet of 2½ inch pipe for east side .....	40 00

Total for material..... \$455 00

The outside labour required to assist the Engineer in the fitting up, would make a total expenditure of \$535.

"As it is important to complete these improvements during the present season, the attention of the Public Works Department will be called to it with a recommendation that funds at the disposal of that Department for some other work (which is not so pressing) be exclusively applied to the purchase of the material required.

"On the 31st of October I made an inspection of the Institution for the Blind, and on that date there were 127 pupils in attendance, 63 males and 64 females. Of the full number 15 were new pupils, and from enquiries lately received by the Principal as to terms of admission, it appears probable that quite a number more are likely to avail themselves of instructions at the Institution during the present session.

"The new entrants who have taken their places in the class-rooms are intelligent, energetic, and promising in appearance, and there is every reason to hope that they will each make satisfactory progress in the branches in which they are taught.

"It is gratifying also to note that the health of the pupils has been excellent since the session commenced, and that all of them were in good health on the day of my visit.

"The re-assembling for the present term took place on the 3rd of September, and the organization was immediately effected with due regard to the proper classification of the pupils according to their industrial ability and development. The work in this respect, however, is that of continuous and systematic revision, as the pupils give evidence of aptness and progress in their studies. But to secure success the necessity for industrial instruction is of paramount importance in educating the blind, and classification in the Institution appears rightly to be made subservient in the system of imparting instruction.

"The Principal speaks with much confidence of the progress being made in the Literary, Musical and Industrial Department, and it is evident that the pupils are showing earnest desire and effort to make progress in that work.

"The structural improvements and alterations on hand during the vacation have all been completed and the steam heating appliances in the new bath-rooms and offices are giving good satisfaction.

"The advantage of having an independent steam supply for these offices is already apparent, as the heating is regulated from time to time without interfering with the temperature in the main building, and as the extremes of the season may require.

"The divisions in the large dormitory on the girls' side are now finished, and the apartments are occupied by the pupils. The rearrangement is of advantage in many ways besides presenting a more comfortable and home-like appearance. The ceilings in the Principal's office, reception room, and boys' stairway are also finished, and both apartments may now be considered complete, and requiring no further outlay to keep them in a satisfactory condition for a long time to come.

"A very desirable addition has been made by erecting a large porch at the boys' rear entrance to the building, as this door is exposed to the north and leads to the workshop and other out-buildings, and is constantly in use. The porch will prove to be a great benefit during the cold season.

"A new steam box has also been attached to the workshop, which will economize labour and prevent the exposure of the pupils when handling the green willow. These, together with all minor repairs and a thorough clearing, has put the Institution buildings in a good state of order.

"The system and arrangement obviously prevailing throughout the Institution was very satisfactory, and the general expression and conduct of the pupils was such as to warrant the conviction that while there was an entire absence of anything like unnecessary restraint, good decorum, and respectful demeanour characterized their conduct towards their superior.

Under these favourable circumstances and with the efforts of a competent and energetic staff of instructors, the progress of the pupil should be thoroughly satisfactory."

#### MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURES.

SERVICES.	Total Expenditure.	Cost Per Pupil.
	\$ c.	\$ c.
Salaries and wages .....	15,333 25	127 78
Medicines and medical comforts .....	61 25	51
Butchers' meat, fish, and fowls .....	2,993 53	24 95
Flour, bread, etc. ....	983 79	8 20
Butter and lard .....	985 58	8 21
General groceries .....	1,984 01	16 53
Fruit and vegetables .....	280 22	2 33
Bedding, clothing, and shoes .....	452 96	3 77
Fuel .....	3,962 64	33 02
Light .....	1,254 80	10 46
Laundry soap and cleaning .....	391 54	3 26
Furniture and furnishings .....	475 93	3 97
Farm, feed, and fodder .....	1,128 73	9 41
Repairs and alterations .....	617 89	5 15
Advertising, printing, postage, etc. ....	670 83	5 59
Books, apparatus, and appliances .....	752 00	6 35
Miscellaneous .....	958 26	7 99
Totals .....	\$33,297 24	\$277 48



## REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL.

ROBERT CHRISTIE, Esq.,

October 1st, 1884.

*Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities;*

SIR, I have the honour, as Principal of the Ontario Institution for the Education of the Blind, to submit my report of the year ending September 30th, 1884.

## NUMBER OF PUPILS.

As on former occasions, I shall first refer to the number of pupils in attendance during the late session (1883-4).

In my last report I expressed the opinion that the attendance, during the session then just commencing, would be about one hundred and twenty. The result proved the estimate to be correct, as 120 was the actual average attendance for that session. The total number of pupils who received instruction at any time during the session of 1883-4 was 122, sixty-four males and fifty-eight females.

Of these, 103—fifty-four males and forty-nine females—had returned to the Institute previous to the 30th September, 1884. The difference will be accounted for as under:—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Graduated in Pianoforte Tuning and Music....	1	0	1
Graduated in Willow Work.....	2	0	2
Left with partial results.....	0	2	2
Left with improved sight.....	0	1	1
Excluded on account of imbecility.....	1	0	1
Excluded on account of physical infirmity.....	0	1	1
Excluded on account of mental defects.....	0	1	1
Detained at home for surgical treatment.....	1	0	1
Detained at home by illness.....	2	0	2
Returned since Sept. 30th.....	3	1	4
Expected shortly.....	1	0	1
Detained at home for one session by friends....	0	1	1
Left of her own accord.....	0	1	1
Total.....	11	8	19

On the 30th September, 1884, the number of pupils in attendance was 127, represented as follows:

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Pupils in attendance last session .. .. .	54	49	103
Former pupils not present last session, re-admitted	5	2	7
New pupils .. .. .	4	7	11
Total .. .. .	63	58	121

To the foregoing number, in estimating the probable attendance of the current session, may be added the following:—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Old pupils returned or expected to return .. .. .	5	0	5
New pupils arrived or expected .. .. .	3	5	8
Total .. .. .	8	5	13

Appearances consequently indicate that we may look for an attendance during the present session of fully 130 or ten more than last session.

It may be inferred from these figures that the somewhat large annual reduction which has been going on for the past three years has now ceased, and that, although several advanced pupils will probably graduate next midsummer, an increase rather than a decrease may be expected during the next four sessions. The ages of the new pupils already admitted this session are as follows :

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.
35 .....	0	1	1
30 .....	0	1	1
27 .....	1	0	1
21 .....	0	1	1
16 .....	0	1	1
14 .....	0	1	1
13 .....	1	0	1
11 .....	0	1	1
8 .....	2	1	3
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 11

The over-age pupils were only received after a very careful consideration of their special and strong claims to a relaxation of the rules in their favour.

I may call your attention, as having an important bearing on internal arrangements, to the greater equality of the sexes in point of numbers now than formerly. So lately as 1881-2 the attendance stood at 85 males and 64 females; in 1882-3, it was 76 males and 62 females, while on the 30th September, 1884, we reported as present, 63 males and 58 females, and, taking into account the expected arrivals, we shall probably find that our pupil population this session will consist of nearly 70 males and 63 females—a difference of nearly 7 in 1884-5, as compared with 21 in 1881-2.

In my last report the causes for a reduction in the aggregate attendance during recent years were so fully discussed that I do not propose to refer to them here.

In accordance with a suggestion in that report which was subsequently approved, I drew up, during last session, a short account in pamphlet form of the objects of the Institution, its situation and other matters of interest to those who may require to avail of the advantage it offers. This little brochure under the title of "*Ontario Institution for the Blind: where it is; what it is; and what it does;*" has been widely circulated, a copy having been sent to every registered medical practitioner in the Province, to a number of ministers of religion and to other persons likely to take an interest in the welfare of the blind and to know of cases eligible for admission. It also supplies a convenient means of replying to inquiries respecting the Institution. The good effect of its circulation has already been manifested in communications received.

I have, on the other hand, to regret the reluctance (perhaps natural) of parents, to part with blind children, and their consequent tardiness in sending them to the only place where they can really enjoy life in early youth, and be made useful and happy in years to come. During the three and a half years over which my personal knowledge of the Institution extends, not one pupil has left in consequence of dissatisfaction with the Institution when once its benefits have been realized by experience. The new pupil soon finds in fresh pursuits and associates, in the great freedom of action for which our arrangements both indoors and out of doors provide, and in the occupation of time which hangs so heavily on the hands of the unemployed blind, abundant compensation for the temporary separation from home and those who, however kind and affectionate, have neither the opportunity nor the experience necessary to make the blind child's existence a really happy one.

Some mistaken persons will detain a blind child at home with the laudable hope of, some day or other, instructing him or her in habits of self-helpfulness and independent action. While these good intentions delay the child's admission here, they usually have but one result, in our having to receive and train to good habits a well-grown boy or girl

with the knowledge and helplessness of an infant, while youngsters of seven and eight years who have come early have learned to be in a large degree independent and at the same time self-respecting. To delay sending a child, blind from its early years, until it is ten or eleven years of age is a great injustice to the child and adds immensely to the difficulties of its training and teaching when it is finally admitted as a pupil.

Scarcely less blameworthy are persons who, in a vain hope of saving or restoring vision, also allow years to roll by that should be devoted to education. Admission to the Institute does not, by any means, preclude surgical treatment. The care taken of the general health of the pupils and the daily visits of an experienced physician have often produced in the case of partially blind pupils, most beneficial effects. Quite a number, too, of our pupils, after spending one or more sessions at the Institution to their permanent advantage have, at the vacation, been sent for surgical treatment to the Eye Infirmary at Toronto, where they have been in some instances most successfully treated.

I must not, in this connection, be understood as entering any protest against exhausting the resources of science in order to relieve or to avert one of the greatest afflictions that can befall humanity, but it should be understood that to a blind, or partially blind youth, time is as precious as to a seeing one, or even more so, and delay too often involves irreparable loss from education only beginning when, from loss of a habit of application, or from the diminished delicacy of the touch—which is to be the substitute for sight—what is to the young easy and pleasant, has become difficult and irksome.

The intervention of the quack is also an annoying experience in not a few cases. After all has been arranged for a pupil's admission one of these knaves come along with his nostrums and impudent pretentiousness. His pseudo-philanthropic attentions and confident predictions of success prevail, and another session is lost while money is wasted in the fraudulent experiment, for in every instance of this kind that has been brought to my knowledge the child has come here in the end.

#### THE STAFF.

While acknowledging, as in former years, the efficiency of the staff and the kind assistance rendered me on every occasion, by one and all of its members, it is particularly pleasant to notice the readiness with which the several new officers appointed a year ago have fallen into their places, and successfully continued the work of their predecessors. This year, I have only two changes to record. Mr. Wm. A. Shannon, our junior male teacher, having decided on studying for a medical profession, left us at the close of the late session. Mr. Shannon's retirement was regretted by every one here. His personal relations had been most agreeable with all, and his official duties were discharged in a manner that secured for him respect and confidence. His place has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Joseph McCarthy. In the knitting department Miss Mary Rich, appointed instructress a year ago, was obliged by ill-health to resign that position, which has been filled by the appointment of Miss M. L. Muirhead.

#### THE LITERARY CLASSES.

The reports of the literary examiners do not call for any special remark on my part. Their suggestions will, of course, receive proper attention. The subject of exact classification is always before us. The difficulties connected with it have been referred to in previous reports and can only be properly understood by those who have to deal with them practically. The examiners are cognisant of many of them.

In my last report the whole course of literary studies pursued here was fully explained. The programme for 1884-5 includes all the subjects therein named, and also a class in Canadian History, the predecessor of which was formed after New Year in last session. Object teaching will receive a fresh impetus from the addition to our stock of a considerable number of Canadian and some foreign stuffed birds and animals, with the forms and habits of which the pupils will be made familiar. A large and handsome glass case for the preservation of these specimens has been constructed during the present year. It is placed in the reception-room, where its contents are objects of much interest to visitors.

In the literary classes the numbers receiving instruction are as follows:—

In Arithmetic.....	83
" Grammar.....	73
" Geography.....	69
" Reading.....	66
" Literature.....	18
" Writing.....	85
" Natural History and Physiology.....	13
" Object Lessons.....	24
" English History.....	11
" Chemistry.....	9

In this connection it may be well to explain that, while a thorough education is secured for our pupils, great care is necessary not unduly to tax their mental faculties or physical strength by a too severe strain upon either. This is, as far as possible, provided against by the arrangement of the order of studies, and by devoting only a limited time to any one subject. Thus Arithmetic, which requires a considerable mental effort on the part of the pupil, is placed first on the day's list, and is disposed of while the pupil is fresh for his work. Grammar, a somewhat abstruse study, comes next; and then Geography, which, as taught by our methods, is little more than a pastime. Reading or Literature follows, and with these the morning's work is brought to a close. Two hours are then allowed for dinner and recreation. The afternoon is devoted to writing, natural history, object lessons, English history and chemistry. The above are the literary classes, but when a pupil takes lessons, as a large proportion do, in music, or receives instruction in the industrial branches, the employment is even more agreeably varied.

While, however, means are taken to prevent undue mental exertion, the need for that systematic physical training which only a properly constructed gymnasium can supply, is too important to be overlooked. No institution for the blind can be complete without it. It is not as in the case of other schools, a mere supplement to the ordinary and natural exercise of active and vigorous youth. The seeing boy runs, jumps, climbs, without a gymnasium. He has cricket, baseball, football, or lacrosse to bring all his limbs and muscles into motion. The blind youth can neither run, jump, nor climb, without peril, unless he is provided with proper appliances and safeguards. He can take no part in any of the out-of-door games above mentioned, while his circumscribed capacity for motion naturally tends to encourage a sedentary habit. His blindness at the same time induces an awkward gait, and gives him a prematurely old appearance. All this may be, to a large extent, corrected by the machinery a properly constructed gymnasium affords. For the education of the minds of our pupils the existing apparatus leaves little to be desired. But for the training and development of the body we have only the merest makeshift and apology.

#### THE MUSIC CLASSES.

The report of the Music Classes examinations is all the more satisfactory when the changes in the staff, which took place last year, are taken into consideration, the more advanced classes having as a consequence of those changes been under the charge of officers who, previous to their appointment here, had not any experience in the education of the blind.

The advantage of having a resident male music teacher has been very clearly shown, and, without in the least disparaging the abilities or efforts of the music staff in the past, our present arrangements it must be admitted have undoubtedly tended to infuse more spirit into the musical studies of the pupils, and to secure a more direct and thorough oversight both during class hours and those devoted to practice.

Mr. Day's attention is chiefly directed to the instruction of pupils in the pipe-organ, to teaching counterpoint, harmony, and the theory of music, and to giving lessons on the piano. Miss Callaghan instructs the most advanced pianoforte pupils, while Miss Moore and Miss McNish take the remainder of the piano and reed-organ classes. Miss Moore also instructs a class in point print music writing, a most useful and necessary accomplishment for the blind music student. In addition to the instruction in vocal music, given

with so much ability by Mrs. Dr. Howson, the whole of the Protestant pupils assemble every Saturday evening in the Music Hall, and are there practised in sacred vocal music by Miss Callaghan and Mr. Day. This arrangement gives increased interest to our devotional services, besides assisting in singing, pupils not able to devote time to attendance upon the vocal class. It also helps to store the mind of the pupils generally with sacred melodies and hymns, which may be a priceless comfort and delight to them in years to come.

The remarks of the Examiner on the condition of the various instruments, are no doubt just, but when pianos are subject to such ceaseless wear and tear as ours they never can be long in perfect order. As a matter of fact all our pianos are over-worked.

The Examiner suggests that the grand piano in the Music Hall should be reserved for concerts and not used for ordinary practice. Without going quite so far as the Examiner in this regard, I would certainly desire not to see this instrument used too frequently. Yet our necessities compel us to resort to it for the practice of four pupils daily.

One of the pianos at the present time is almost past using for music practice. It is partially devoted to tuning practice, and the sooner it is finally turned over to the tuning class exclusively the better. But its place will have to be supplied, and at least one additional piano should be provided. In fact, to do full justice to our music pupils, two additional pianos over and above our present number, should be purchased or hired.

The violin class, under Professor Baker, consists of two advanced pupils and three who are receiving primary instruction. The pupils forming the instrumental music classes number seventy-three. The vocal class is attended by forty-two.

#### THE TUNING CLASS.

The tuning class, under Mr. Raymond, consists of nine pupils in various stages of progress. One pupil graduated with a full outfit last session, and is now I believe doing business on his own account in London, Ont. Three former pupils are employed in the ware-rooms and factory of Messrs. Mason & Risch, of Toronto, and the firm speak of their services in satisfactory terms. One of the pupils now in the Institution will probably graduate at the close of this session. He is charged at present with the care of the several pianos, with keeping them in tune and effecting any such slight repairs as from time to time need attention. In the absence of a wider field for practical instruction than the Institution within itself can supply, pupils graduating as tuners should be encouraged by their friends wherever it is possible to enter a factory and spend some time there before starting on their own account. The difference between tuning our old pianos and performing the same operations on new ones, or those in first-class condition is very great, and the pupil will hardly acquire the requisite skill unless he has experience in the manipulation of the latter.

#### THE INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.

The several branches of industry pursued by our pupils next demand some notice.

##### THE WILLOW SHOP.

The pupils in the willow shop deserve particular commendation from me for their conduct and progress last year. For several weeks Mr. Truss, the Trades' Instructor, was prevented by a very serious illness from attending to his duties. During this period the shop pupils were deprived of all but occasional oversight during working hours and left largely to their own resources. Their behaviour was most exemplary and their close attention to their work—much of it, just then of a somewhat uninviting nature, was beyond all praise. Mr. Truss' own report gives some facts well worth notice in connection with his department. It is as follows:—

MR. A. H. DYMOND, *Principal*.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my report upon the operations of the workshop during the year ending September 30th, 1884.

The session has been one of steady progress on the part of the pupils. Two pupils having qualified themselves for receiving graduates' outfits during the session, have, with



your approval, been supplied with the same. These two young men are now working at their own homes with every prospect of success in their efforts to earn their own livelihood. It is expected, that, at the close of the present session, four more pupils in this department will be ready to receive outfits. I may state that the conduct of the workshop pupils during the entire session has been most satisfactory, both in regard to industry and deportment.

The following statement shows the amount of *saleable* work made last session by pupils during their nine months' training at the Institution:—

Sales by 'Trades' Instructor .....	\$598 50
Work on hand not sold .....	175 00
Total .....	\$773 50

#### *Pupils' Vacation Work.*

According to our usual custom, at the close of last session, we distributed a supply of willow (about 2,000 lbs.) among twenty-two of our workshop pupils, for the purpose of keeping them employed during the vacation, and giving them an opportunity of earning such sums of money as would enable them to provide themselves with clothing and pocket-money. The following statement shows the very gratifying results:—

W. K. earned .....	\$68 00	F. N. earned .....	\$45 00
W. T. " .....	30 00	J. S. " .....	25 00
J. B. " .....	40 00	J. C. " .....	42 00
B. C. " .....	25 00	G. D. " .....	46 00
S. W. " .....	19 00	J. K. " .....	25 00
F. G. " .....	35 00	H. S. " .....	18 00
J. K. " .....	25 00	W. D. " .....	19 50
O. L. " .....	24 00	F. P. " .....	20 00
S. L. " .....	18 50	W. B. " .....	40 00
J. A. " .....	42 00	R. S. " .....	15 00
C. R. " .....	40 00		
J. L. " .....	37 00		\$699 00

It may be as well to state that pupils working during the vacation confine themselves to the manufacture of such articles as their training in the Institution has enabled them to make with a considerable degree of proficiency and speed. The financial result of their vacation work must not, therefore, be compared with that of the preceding nine months' training, during which time a large portion of their work had no commercial value whatever. The list of articles we teach our pupils to make is sufficiently long to tax the application and ability of the smartest among them for five or six sessions, and the vacation work merely supplies the practical test of the nature of the training they have received during the previous session.

During the past session a most effectual substitute has taken the place of the four stoves previously used for heating the shops (and which were a continual source of danger and anxiety on account of our having so much inflammable material in the shop) by the complete fitting up of the upper and lower workshops with steam radiators. The comfort and security thus afforded are highly appreciated both by the pupils and their instructor.

It would be desirable that a new floor should be laid down in the lower workshops, the old floor and joists being decayed, and also unfavourable from its low position in regard to the health of those who have to spend so large a portion of their time in the workshops.

(Signed)

THOMAS TRUSS,

Trades' Inspector.

BRANTFORD, Oct. 1st, 1884.

The earnings of the pupils above referred to, accumulated as they were by those who are still learners, and from the sale of the limited descriptions of goods they were able to place on the market, give excellent promise of the fruits the same youths will be likely to gather from their industry when they finally start with a full outfit of models, as competent workmen on their own account.

And here I may, without mentioning any names or even the branch of industry in which he had graduated, just relate an incident connected with one of our former pupils which speaks volumes for the instruction that redeems the blind from the helplessness otherwise incidental to their lot.

The pupil in question, a young man of 21, left the Institution two years ago. His earnings at first were small but sufficient for his personal wants, and after a time for a little more. His father was a farmer whose means were almost exclusively represented by his farm stock, buildings and implements. Rejoicing last summer in a more than ordinary good harvest he was suddenly deprived of nearly everything by fire. Friends and neighbours were kind and sympathetic, but the first person to come to the half-ruined man with pecuniary assistance was his blind son. By economy and self-denial the young man had in this short time saved nearly one hundred dollars which he placed at his father's disposal, pledging at the same time his future savings until the old place should be itself again. A worthy act this on the part of the blind youth and one bringing to him, no doubt, inexpressible pleasure, but a most notable instance, too, of the beneficial results of the training and instruction such Institutions as this provide.

At the present time there are in the workshops 22 pupils wholly engaged in willow work, one who devotes an hour daily to study, and four who leave the class room for the shop for the last three hours in the afternoon only. These last named are lads of fifteen or sixteen, who have mostly made fair progress in the classes and will gradually lessen their attendance in the latter, occupying a correspondingly longer time in the workshop. Mr. Truss alluded to the introduction of steam heating into the workshops. He does not over-estimate the value of this improvement either in regard to safety or comfort. His reference to the state of the lower shop flooring is also well-timed.

The use of steam for heating the workshop enables us to effect another improvement by the construction of a box for steaming the willow contiguous to the workshops instead of being attached to the pumping house and dependent on the use of exhaust steam on certain days only. The green willow will now be laid down at the shops, steamed, and passed into the shop direct from the box, with the least possible expenditure of labour.

### THE SEWING ROOM.

There are forty-six pupils, all females, now receiving instruction in the sewing room, nine more than last year. In this branch, as in the willow shop, the time devoted to sewing varies according to the age of the pupil, the progress she has made in other classes, and the probable connection of her training here with her employment and circumstances after leaving the Institution. All the pupils in this room are instructed in hand-sewing. Those who are found capable are then taught to use the sewing-machine with its several attachments. Some of them also attain considerable proficiency in cutting out and fitting.

### THE KNITTING ROOM.

The work of the knitting room was considerably interrupted last session by the frequent indisposition of Miss Mary Rich, the lady engaged as instructress on the retirement of Miss Algie a year ago. I regret very much that Miss Rich should have been unable to continue in the position for which she had many qualifications, but as the vacation approached, it became evident that the acceptance of her resignation was unavoidable. Miss Rich has been succeeded by Miss M. L. Muirhead, and I am well satisfied with the activity and enthusiasm that have pervaded the knitting department since Miss Muirhead took charge of it. It will be in your recollection that, in my last report, I expressed an opinion decidedly adverse to the continuance of the system of paying pupils in the knitting room for work done there. The same practice formerly existed in the willow shop but was discontinued for evidently quite sufficient reasons, and no notion of

reviving it has ever since been entertained. In the knitting room, as in other classes, the sole idea before the pupil's mind should be the attainment of proficiency. This is often best secured by slow rather than by very rapid progress. A pupil, impelled by a desire to make money will almost inevitably look to quantity rather than to that perfection of quality which only much care and patient effort can secure. Besides, while the direct gain in money to the pupil may be greater by turning out a large quantity of plain work of a particular description, the business of knitting can only be taught properly by the pupil being familiarized with many varieties of work differing both in form and material and executed by machine or hand as the case requires. At the commencement of the session I notified the pupils that they must not depend upon any further emoluments from this source, and so far from the intimation acting as a discouragement to those affected, I have had more applications for admissions to the knitting room this session than on any previous occasion. The final decision of the question rests of course with yourself.

The pupils learning knitting—which branch includes hand and machine knitting, and also crotchet-work—number forty, or seven more than last year.

The question how to dispose of the marketable work turned out by these young persons will have to be considered. The lighter and fancy goods will probably find a ready sale to visitors, and some pupils will make articles to supply private orders, or for the use of their own friends. But there must inevitably be a considerable production of plain goods, and these will have to be sold to some one. The Reformatory at Penetanguishene is now the only public institution left as a customer, the others being supplied by their own inmates, or the Reformatory for Females, with hand-knitted goods. Your attention will be given, I doubt not, to overcoming, so far as we are concerned, a difficulty departmental action has created.

#### BLIND INDUSTRIES.

In this relation I desire to remark that, while industries taught in this Institution may be well adapted to the employment of seeing persons in asylums or prisons, nay, while they may, perchance, be even better adapted for those unfortunates than some others, yet what is a matter of choice with them is found to be the sole resource of the industrious blind. So far as my enquiries extend, the only industries taught at all successfully to the blind, as a means of independent support in after years, at any institution on this continent, are as follows:—

For Males.—Pianoforte tuning.  
Willow and Rattan work.  
Cane-chair seating.  
Broom-making.  
Mattress making.

For Females.—Machine and Hand Sewing.  
“ “ Knitting.  
Crochet work.  
Bead work.

In Canada the openings for pianoforte tuners must be limited, and so, too, must be the supply. The combination of a correct musical ear, and mechanical adroitness, in a blind youth, is not universal by any means. To enter the tuning class is an object of ambition to many, but the selection has to be most carefully made. Otherwise we should bring discredit upon the effort to turn out blind tuners able to compete with seeing men. Not more than one or two youths can be expected to graduate from this class annually.

In Canada, and, to a large extent in the States, machinery supersedes all attempts at broom-making by hand. Across the line it is taught because it is easy to learn rather than because it is profitable. A man may exist by it when he can do nothing else; but I doubt if he ever does more than just eke out a livelihood by it. In Canada it is not to be thought of.

Mattress-making is carried on by a few Institutions and by some blind persons in the neighborhood of large cities. It can hardly compete successfully in the hands of the blind with seeing labor.



Cane-chair seating, on any considerable scale, is also an urban industry, and that, too, is rapidly being superseded by numerous substitutes. Experience, in fact, has taught us that, for blind men exclusively, piano tuning, the chair and basket industry, are the only ones that in Canada can be carried on profitably and on a scale commensurate with a respectable living.

In the case of female pupils the sewing-machine is a means of domestic usefulness rather than commercial profit when they leave the Institution.

Bead work is in very limited demand.

Knitting is the staple industry and main resource of the female blind. I trust therefore, that, whatever the claims of other recipients of departmental care and oversight to consideration, our two industries,—the willow work for the male and knitting for the female blind,—may be left to us as nearly as possible without competition or interference.

#### THE LIBRARY.

With the view of encouraging a more careful and extended system of reading out of school hours, Mr. Wickens, our senior master, has voluntarily assumed the duty this session of chief librarian, his colleagues assisting him at the weekly issue of books to male and female pupils alternately. The new books in embossed type or point print added to the library since my last report have been :— Scott's "Ivanhoe," "Readings in English History," "Old Story Tellers," "Our World," Thackeray's "Four Georges," "Stories about Musicians," Burns' Poems, Bryant's Poems, Select Poems and some others.

#### HEALTH.

Whilst the past year was not without its anxieties on account of the health both of pupils and officers, I am glad to be able to report that, in no instance has illness proved fatal to either, and that, with one exception already named, all who last session were seriously affected are now well. The late session passed over without any illness of a contagious character. Immediately after the reopening of the Institution for the present session, symptoms of measles showed themselves in one of the female pupils, but as these disappeared almost immediately, it was doubtful whether the case was one of the true type after all.

Bronchial disease in a more or less severe form was the chief trouble of last winter. Mild cases were very numerous, and two female pupils were so seriously ill as to excite considerable anxiety. Both were, when convalescent, removed to their respective homes ; one returned previous to the vacation and both are now, I am happy to report, in good health and pursuing their studies. I may mention further that both these young persons contracted the colds out of which their illness arose, while absent from the Institution and in the care of friends.

Few, if any, of the officers altogether escaped the malady in some form or other. Mr. Wickens was for a considerable time under medical care, and Mr. Truss, as already mentioned, was laid up for several weeks.

The great need for some suitable hospital arrangements on the female pupils' side of the building has, by the past year's experience, been more than ever apparent. What should, it seems to me, have been almost the first thought of those who planned such a building as this, and what, seven years ago, the liberality of the Government supplied on the male pupils' side, is still wanting in the east wing. Yet the ordinary accommodation in the latter is less by fifty per cent. than in the former—irrespective of the boys' hospital ward—since the addition to the west wing was constructed. Yet the difference in numbers between the male and female pupils does not now exceed six or seven. Whenever a male pupil has sickened with any disease requiring isolation, it has been effected at once without difficulty. But when, on a recent occasion, a case of what appeared to be measles presented itself, the only resource was to clear out the most accessible dormitory, placing the beds of the pupils who usually occupied the room in the other dormitories, which were already as full as was desirable, having due regard to health and comfort, and even then the isolation

was more in appearance than in reality. Last session the pupils already referred to as seriously ill, and who needed constant attentions night and day, were compelled to occupy their usual sleeping places surrounded by their fellow pupils, a state of things neither desirable for the invalids nor agreeable to others.

#### DISCIPLINE.

The conduct of the pupils was, with very few exceptions, good during the whole of last session. It is not to be expected that, in any school, either blind or seeing, the whole will be equally well-behaved and exemplary. But it is a great satisfaction to know that in this Institution troublesome pupils meet with little sympathy from their companions.

#### RECENT IMPROVEMENTS.

Although no new structures of any magnitude were erected during the late vacation several improvements were effected within the building. The most important of these was a division of the large dormitory in the east wing into three chambers and a cloak and wash room. The change is exactly similar to that made some years since in the west wing. It is a most beneficial one in many respects.

The heating apparatus of the new bath rooms and offices erected last year was found, in view of their exposed situation, to be quite inadequate to the demands upon it. I trust, however, that the measures adopted to remedy this defect will prove amply sufficient.

A roomy lobby at the male pupils' rear entrance has been erected, which will afford protection from cold to that part of the building, and be useful in many ways.

The process of substituting wood ceilings for plaster has been continued by the re-ceiling with oiled and varnished pine, of the visitors' reception room and the Principal's office, in one of which the old ceiling had partially fallen and in the other threatened to fall at any moment.

The old bath rooms on the upper and lower flat in the west wing have now been converted, the one into our junior male officers' private room, and the other into a music class room. The remainder of the inside work done has been chiefly in the nature of minor repairs.

#### THE GROUNDS.

The improvements in the grounds have partly consisted of planting some new trees, but also, and more particularly, in transplanting trees where they were overcrowded, and in cultivating and pruning the trees and evergreens generally. There is quite room for a continuance of this work from year to year with the prospect not only of promoting tree growth but also of adding much to the beauty of the site and premises.

#### THE FARM.

Both the farm and ornamental grounds presented, during the early part of the year a very flourishing appearance. Frequent rains produced a rapid growth both of trees and crops and everything gave promise of abundant results. On the whole, we have no reason to be disappointed, although the long season of drought, in August and September, checked the development of the roots and potatoes just at a critical period. We shall, nevertheless, have a full supply for all purposes. We also took a heavy crop of clover off a piece of land sowed down last year, and harvested 165 bushels of oats from another lot similarly treated this spring. The cleaning of the land in order to lessen the labour annually bestowed on the destruction of weeds is now our first object.

#### THE NEWLY PURCHASED LAND.

The land recently purchased, on our north-western and western boundaries, was ploughed early in the summer and has been again subjected to the same process recently. The naturally poor quality of a large portion, and twenty years, more or less of the most improvident farming, have presented us with a legacy of work that will need liberal

encouragement if anything is to be made of it for agricultural purposes. Even if laid out ornamentally, it must be thoroughly cultivated and well manured.

The primary object of its possession has been attained by its purchase and the consequent isolation of the institution from intrusion on that side. So far as the higher portion, immediately in the rear of our buildings, is concerned, if pretty thickly planted with trees, especially those of the coniferous species, it would in a few years afford an important defence from the severity of the northern winds, besides adding greatly to the beauty of the estate. The lower and more westerly portion can be gradually brought into cultivation or used for pasture.

A barbed wire and board fence will supersede the present dilapidated rail fence facing the public road, and the same will probably be the most economical arrangement for the western boundary. I respectfully suggest that, in the estimates for next year, a moderate appropriation should be made in order to place at our disposal the means of gradually improving this property by such means as after due consideration may be approved.

#### FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

The enlargement of the bakery, increased accommodation for the carpenter, and other improvements of a necessary but minor character suggest themselves, but do not require more than a passing notice here. I desire to draw your attention most pointedly to larger and, as I venture to think, most needful works, whether it may be deemed expedient to construct them at an early or later period.

The urgent need for a hospital ward in the female pupils' wing is too apparent to need comment. It is now, I assume, quite clear that this desideratum is unattainable within our present building. The attempt was made last year to secure it in connection with the change in the large dormitory, but had to be given up. Only then by an enlargement, or an addition, can the hospital ward be obtained.

You will observe, too, that the numbers of our female pupils have for some years been pretty steadily maintained, while there is now rather a tendency towards an increase. With sixty we are full, every one over that number is really one too many, and if we reach seventy—as we probably may ere long—we shall have to resort to expedients not consistent with health or comfort. And here let me say that, to our better arrangements in that respect I attribute, to a large extent, our immunity from diseases incidental to, or greatly aggravated by overcrowding. The need then for more dormitory accommodation on the girl's side is imminent.

But this is not all. The female pupils by reason of their pursuits and habits, are always more closely confined to the house than the male pupils. Yet, as already noticed, although only slightly in excess in point of numbers, the latter—irrespective of the workshops where so many are employed—have ample accommodation for all purposes within the main building, without resorting to their dormitories at all in the day time. The latter, after being put in order in the forenoon, are locked up until night, when they are fresh and pleasant for occupation. The girls' dormitories, on the other hand, are their sole resort if they want to read or work, and when not in class they retire thither, virtually therefore living in the same rooms night and day. This can be rectified only by an enlargement of the present east wing, and in such an addition I should recommend, besides one or two new dormitories and a hospital ward, the construction of two large rooms on the ground floor answering to the vocal class room, and (so-called) gymnasium in the west wing, the one for the elder girls to use for a work and reading room, the other for a junior girls' play-room. In the east wing, too, more music rooms are badly needed and could be secured at the same time. While, to preserve architectural symmetry, I suppose any extension of the east wing must correspond with the one at the other end of the building. It is probable that the internal fittings and arrangements might, without substantial loss, be less elaborate and costly than those in the former corresponding improvements.

An addition to the girls' or east wing is therefore desirable in order to secure—

- (1) A female pupils' hospital ward.
- (2) Adequate dormitory accommodation.
- (3) Sufficient rooms for the use of the female pupils in the day time.
- (4) Additional music rooms.

I need not enlarge on the importance of a gymnasium, which, if built, must be quite independent of the last proposed improvements, and also at the west end of the building, in order to give the male pupils constant access to it. The change from high to low pressure in our steam heating arrangements with a corresponding economy in the consumption of fuel and a better supply of heat in connection with that change, to some parts of the old building, is a threadbare topic, and need not be enlarged upon here.

I am sensible that all these improvements would involve a large outlay on capital account. My duty is done when the case in their favour is properly presented.

Let me only say further that, with our spacious and healthfully situated grounds, with a completed building as above suggested, with a properly adjusted heating machinery, and last, but scarcely least, with a suitable constructed gymnasium, I do not believe that this Institution, properly conducted, would be second to any Institution for the Blind in the world.

In conclusion, it is my duty again, through you, to call the attention of the Public Works Department to the very urgent necessity for the painting and pointing of the exterior of the whole main building, to the constant trouble with the roof of the older portion, and, lastly, to the decayed state of our fences, particularly those fronting the public roads.

Until lately cattle roamed almost unrestrained over the latter, and last year we suffered serious damage from their intrusions. Recently, however, the city authorities have been more vigilant, and property-owners having in many cases abolished their road fences, are on the *qui vive* to sustain the by-laws of the city and township. I am, therefore, disposed to contemplate the removal of our road fences along the eastern and southern boundaries from the Bursar's house to the lodge at the head of Palmerston Avenue. A chain and low posts, or some light and cheap arrangement, might be necessary, but even that is in my mind an open question. These may, perhaps to some, seem rather revolutionary ideas, but they have been well considered, as also have some slight prospective changes in the present walks used by the female pupils, if the fences were removed. The further ornamentation of the grounds in that quarter would, moreover, have to be undertaken. That the fencing, if it is to be retained, must be thoroughly repaired is a certainty.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

I cannot close this report without once more expressing my obligations to the clergy of this city and to many clerical visitors for their kindness in conducting the Sunday afternoon services at the Institution, as well as for the deep interest shown by them in the welfare of the pupils at all times.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. DYMOND,

Principal.

ONTARIO INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.  
STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1884.

I.—NATIONALITIES.

	No.		No.
American .....	2	Irish .....	37
Canadian .....	44	Norwegian .....	1
English .....	22	Scotch .....	16
French .....	2	Wendish .....	2
German .....	3		
Indian .....	1	Total .....	140

II.—RELIGION.

	No.		No.
Baptists .....	5	Lutherans .....	3
Bible Christians .....	1	Methodists .....	31
Congregationalists .....	4	Presbyterians .....	25
Davidites .....	1	Roman Catholics .....	25
Episcopalians .....	42	Salvationists .....	2
Jew .....	1	Total .....	140

III.—AGES.

	No.		No.
Six years .....	1	Seventeen years .....	7
Seven " .....	3	Eighteen " .....	10
Eight " .....	5	Nineteen " .....	5
Nine " .....	1	Twenty " .....	14
Ten " .....	4	Twenty-one " .....	6
Eleven " .....	8	Twenty-two " .....	5
Twelve " .....	6	Twenty-three " .....	5
Thirteen " .....	9	Twenty-four " .....	4
Fourteen " .....	13	Twenty-five " .....	1
Fifteen " .....	7	Over Twenty-five .....	18
Sixteen " .....	8	Total .....	140

## IV. ATTENDANCE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Attendance for portion of year ending 30th September, 1872. ....	20	14	34
“ for year ending 30th September, 1873 . . . . .	44	24	68
“ “ “ 1874 . . . . .	66	46	112
“ “ “ 1875 . . . . .	89	50	139
“ “ “ 1876 . . . . .	84	64	148
“ “ “ 1877 . . . . .	76	72	148
“ “ “ 1878 . . . . .	91	81	175
“ “ “ 1879 . . . . .	100	100	200
“ “ “ 1880 . . . . .	105	98	203
“ “ “ 1881 . . . . .	103	98	201
“ “ “ 1882 . . . . .	94	73	167
“ “ “ 1883 . . . . .	88	72	160
“ “ “ 1884 . . . . .	71	69	140

## V.—OCCUPATION OF PARENTS.

	No.		No.
Actor . . . . .	1	Farmers . . . . .	45
Agents . . . . .	3	Gardeners . . . . .	3
Auctioneer . . . . .	1	Hostler . . . . .	1
Axe grinder . . . . .	1	Hotel-keeper . . . . .	1
Butler . . . . .	1	Labourers . . . . .	22
Boilermaker . . . . .	1	Merchants . . . . .	7
Bookkeeper . . . . .	1	Millers . . . . .	1
Basketmaker . . . . .	1	Painters . . . . .	2
Blacksmiths . . . . .	3	Plumber . . . . .	1
Butcher . . . . .	1	Printer . . . . .	1
Carpenters . . . . .	7	Physicians . . . . .	2
Clerks . . . . .	2	Salesman . . . . .	1
Conductors . . . . .	2	Steamboat engineer . . . . .	1
Clergymen . . . . .	2	Shoemakers . . . . .	3
Drover . . . . .	1	Surveyors . . . . .	2
Engineer . . . . .	1	Tailor . . . . .	1
Educator . . . . .	1	Tanner . . . . .	1



V.—OCCUPATION OF PARENTS.*Continued.*

	No.		No.
Tinsmith	1	Waggonmaker	1
Tradesman	1	Weaver	1
Vessel agent	1	Unknown	8
Veterinary surgeon	1	Total	110

## PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

R. CHRISTIE, Esq.,

*Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities.*

SIR,—In laying before you some account of the year's work in the medical department of this Institution, it may first be stated that the net results have been most satisfactory. There has been an almost entire absence of disease in its more acute form, and you will not, therefore, be surprised to learn there are no deaths to report. Indeed, it is satisfactory to state that for years past the bill of mortality in the Institution has been nil. This happy result is not claimed as entirely due to my own efforts, but the credit may be partly ascribed to the airy location of the buildings, to the natural drainage of the grounds, and to the purity of the water supply. To these natural advantages may be added, a fairly efficient system of sewerage, and the spaciousness of the building in all its parts, permitting the maintenance of that sanitary condition so desirable in every public Institution.

While there has been this immunity from disease of a serious nature, yet the number of chronic ailments has been sufficiently numerous to show the necessity for the constant medical care and supervision of the blind. The pupils again suffered from the various inflammations of the air passages which were so general throughout the province last winter, and to the number of these cases the prevailing west winds in our exposed situation always contribute material additions. Hence, if a pupil stands near a window opened for ventilation, or steps out doors without extra clothing, the result is often a catarrhal cold or a bronchitis if nothing worse. On this account it would be very desirable to see the newly acquired field to the west of the Institution thickly planted with forest trees, which, in time, would break the force of the fierce winter winds and form a most desirable shelter in stormy weather, while at the same time the picturesque appearance of the grounds would be sensibly improved.

In a former report, allusion was made of the arrest of physical development so often met in the blind youth and produced no doubt by the sedentary life imposed upon them by the loss of sight. This is especially noticeable among the female pupils, so that a young girl, for instance, who appears by her stature to be twelve years old is often found to be fifteen or sixteen. Your attention is once more called to this subject for the purpose of suggesting a remedy by furnishing a gymnasium where all our pupils can engage in the active exercises so necessary to the full development of their physical frames. This gymnasium, in addition to the usual appliances, should have one large room without furniture or any object against which the pupils might injure themselves, and where they could enter heartily and confidently into the play of blind man's buff (literally) and other amusements adapted to their condition. Here, too, as on a miniature parade ground, they could be drilled in a manual of exercises which should constitute a part of their physical training.

I must not fail to call your attention to the long felt want of a hospital ward on the female side. This want was keenly felt recently when one of the pupils took ill with

symptoms of a contagious disease, when there was not a room to be had for the purpose of isolation, except by the inconvenience and discomfort of stowing away into already crowded rooms several of the younger pupils to make room for the sick patient. You will perceive from this last statement another fact, namely, that every room on the female side is fully occupied and that any considerable addition to our numbers should be provided for by the erection of the long contemplated wing corresponding to the one already made on the male side of the house.

During the colder weather of winter it has been found impossible to keep one of the class rooms sufficiently warm and at the same time to maintain a proper ventilation. The present short allowance of heating pipe in this room will require to be supplemented by a radiator to overcome this difficulty.

I take pleasure in acknowledging the courtesy and cordial co-operation of the Principal and all the officers of the Institution in the performance of my important duties as attending physician.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. CORSON, M.D.